

[FROM THE COMMON FATHER]

We are once more in the midst of a political agitation. There are no less than eight candidates for the county in the field, that is, said to be; if we have as yet had no meetings on the part of any other candidates, it is because they have not been able to get at which are above reported. The candidates mentioned, besides Mr. W. H. Sutor, are Mr. Bligh, Mr. Dues Thomas, Mr. Dore, Dr. Sherwin, Mr. Fitzgibbon, Mr. Maynard, Mr. Hutton, Mr. McGaughan. The attorney-General, recent Bathurst, this morning, but has not yet made any public appearance.

THE WEATHER.—We had a considerable fall of rain in the early part of the week. Agricultural operations have been retarded, and the crops have not been so good as had been expected. The season has been delayed from the dryness of the ground, it now being actively followed. The nights are cold, and very foggy, morning foggy, and the midday sun

SOFALA.

The whole population on this field is perhaps little more than two thousand. I don't know if the census will show more. There are about thirty public houses within a radius of a mile of the station, and I don't know of our district; no doubt this number will be increased by superfluity, whilst by some it will be taken as a proof that we dip deeply into the intoxicating fluid.

The Excise held their Court here on last Tuesday, and the magistrates, who are eight in number, have just given a license for the coming year. If the supporters of public-houses be any criterion of the richness of a locality we beat London by a long chalk. There are about 100 public-houses in the district, and I don't think one public house to every twenty-five persons, our inhabitants; here we have thirty publicans to twenty thousand persons. That our publicans are good citizens is a fact, for only a single complaint was made

TASMANIA.
[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

26th APRIL.—Candidates for the new Parliament are now being named. It is said that a requisition to Mr. Rogers, the Solicitor-General, is a laudable signature of the Launceston, and the people of Morven seem also inclined to invite him. Mr. Henry Hopkins, John Walker, and G. Elliston are mentioned for the Upper House for Hobart, and Messrs. McPherson and H. Lippincott for Burnie. But no active signs seem yet to have been taken to secure them. Messrs. J. A. Gibson and Captain Dixon are spoken of for Devon, and Mr. Wedge for the Upper House for Launceston. Mr. R. Allison is sure to be returned for Campbellton, and Mr. Kennedy will have to be brought in by another constituency. Mr. Langdon is likely to go to the Upper House for the Upper Derwent district, and Mr. J. L. Gellibrand intends to oppose Mr. Sheridan for Cumberland; Mr. Strachan for the West, and Mr. Gellibrand for the South. Mr. T. Gregson is threatened by the rivalry of Messrs. V. Smith and Bassett Dickson at Richmond. There is a probability of the old Legislative Council being

...and new taxes.

Captain King has been for some time in Lunenburg and with a Board, appointed for that purpose, is endeavoring to get into the real cause of the wreck of the *Helene Stewart* at the Heads. The investigation is not yet finished, but there seems to have been some deficiency or error in the ship's management by the pilot. *Helene* does not seem to have boarded the vessel in time, and she was steered by signals made to her from the light house.

A dispute has arisen between the Government and Mr. Askin Morrison, regarding 200 feet of land at the mouth of the New Wharf. There is no doubt that the land belongs to the latter, and on the Government attempting to fence it in, Mr. Morrison got the post immediately pulled down.

The annual meetings of the Bible Society have been held at Westbury, Launceston, and Hobart Town, and large audiences were attracted. The societies are in a very flourishing condition. The engagement of a colporteur has led to most cheering results, as about 8000 bibles and testaments have been disposed of during the year. The Rev. Dr. Browne presided at Launceston; at Hobart Town, Sir. H. Young having been prevented by illness from attending, the Rev. W. Nicholson was called to the chair. Ministers of all denominations spoke.

Mr. May, superintendent of the convict establishment in Hobartton, having resigned his post, sold his property, proceeds to take to Sydney. He was asked to give evidence as to whether or not he had any address and a silver tea service, and he said only a certain person in Hobart Town have also sent him a card, bearing testimony to the efficient discharge of his duties, and the readiness and ability with which he had performed his duties. He said that he was scarce. They evidently yearn for old associations, not because they were "dear," but because they were "cheap" to them. That Mr. May is thus allowed to go, is a very serious matter, and the Government are compelled to allow the decision of the home Government on the charges laid against him, in passing strangers and will by and by tell strangely against him, for the people were determined not to allow these iniquities to pass. He has been a great deal of time in the

FACTS FOR CONSIDERATION.—Canada is rapidly becoming more independent of England. Out of 363,000 pounds of tea imported into Canada last year, only 66,000 came by way of sea, the remainder through the United States. Of \$301,600 worth of sugar, only \$245,000 came by sea. Of molasses, only \$23,000 out of an import of \$40,000. Of coffee, only £3900 out of an import of £42,000.

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India for January and

THE SONTAL PERGUNNAH—Such is the name of the new Province created by the Legislature out of the disturbed districts. The arrangements for its administration are almost complete, and include some experiments of no slight importance to the future of the country. The first and chief forerunner of the new district, The Commissioner of Bhagulpore, will be ex-Officio Commissioner of the Sontal Pargunnah, an arrangement which though economical, we cannot but regret. On the one hand the difference of jurisdiction must seriously hamper the Commissioner of the more ordinary duties of the office. Mr. Staiford on one side of a boundary is tied and fettered off with his office rendered powerless by red tape, and his hands are tied by the same old-fashioned formula, is on the other an absolute ruler. Of course he will do for himself the work which leaves him a possibility of success. He will prefer the little provinces where he can do something, to the great division where he

over to England, and we know that the consequences of that preference. On the other hand, the ordinary duties, the post office work of the division must seriously impair his efficiency. To make the non-regulation of his duties, and the non-attendance on his heart and soul in the work, but his body alone, he, the final authority, should be in incessant motion among the people, to whom he is an earthly provision. His presence, his personal appeal, and his judgment for practical purposes, are necessary to carry the final appeal though not so of old to a power. His will, will be to an officer at the distance. The immediate administration must be entrusted to one who is not present, and the result, and every other thing will be proportionately delayed. The immediate authority will be entrusted, we understand, to the Deputy Commissioner, and the office bestowed on the Honourable A. Eden with a salary of Rs. 1200 a month. The selection of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Eden is one of the officers who have, "supposedly,"

before it is decided. The punishment which should follow the detection of crime instantaneously, may still be delayed by official forms. It may be said that this is a matter for subsequent consideration. If the modified system succeeds, the verdict on the facts may be made absolute. But a jury without power is a jury without interest in its work, and the experience to succeed, must enlist the interest in the juryman's work. Another great experiment to be tried is in the arrangements for the police. It is the most thorough, the most logical, and the most important of all. The

who argues that sound can never die. The atmospheric waves may roll on fainter and fainter through infinite space, but roll on they must, and the vibrations imperceptible to mortal ears, may be clear to faculties of a higher grade. The ideas may well inspire us with a new sense of the grandeur of the universe, but it has also its melancholy side. Imagine the decisions of the Sudder thus rolling on to all eternity, and perceptible



CEYLON.
We have papers to the 29th January.
The *Columbo Observer* extraordinary of the 25th
says:—"Our pigeon express has arrived, the overland
mail steamer having reached Galle at a late hour last
evening." By it we learn that an advance on plantation
coffee had taken place.

re to the 29th January.

crop has been already reported short, and our latest report from that district is to the following effect: "We have had no rain this month, and our soil is as hard as a brick—a good blossom ready to come out. We had a little rain to assist it." We may now be said to have experienced more than one-third of the crop for it is greatly doubted if the total out-turn of 1855-56 will exceed 400,000 cwt.

The Governor, Sir Henry Ward, had gone to the district of Ouwah, for the purpose of conferring with the European planters respecting the state of the

THE CITY COMMISSIONERS.
To the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald.
Sir,—I have to-day been "billed" by the Commissioners for the rates and taxes for the current year and it is, therefore, very excusable that my temper should be somewhat bilious—assuming the type of bilious *fever*—which is very prevalent just now. I am a resident at Miller's Point, and have been for many years past, and the above-mentioned Commissioners, and their predecessors have consequently had a good share of my money—a very liberal contribution towards their general "wages and expenses," and

colony, large bonded stores, and a large coasting trade. Moore's, one of the most extensive and important wharves in the port, and large bonded stores. Duggild's, including the most extensive, and, of course, heavy coal trade. Ebsworth's, of considerable note. Captain Smith's, second only to Towns' and Duke's, with a new wharf and extensive storage now constructing.

COALITION.

To the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald.

Sir,—Though a great deal has been said by the public Press on various topics connected with the present Elections, yet there is one point which has been quite omitted, and it is on this that I now wish to address you. The subject is Coalition, a specimen of which we have for the first time witnessed in this colony. In treating it, I abstain entirely from all party feeling, and address myself exclusively to the public.

...by far the most important that has
...consequently, we all f

But let me at once proceed to the matter in hand; and, to put the question in its proper formula, I ask whether the system of Coalition among candidates for election is either honourable to them, or advantageous to the public? I deny both, and now offer a few remarks in support of my opinion.

If coalition, then, can be justified at all, it can only be on the ground that it is necessary to prevent the election of a man who, in his political conduct, would prove hurtful and prejudicial to the country. But this argument is easily answered. There cannot be any such necessity. It can only be necessary when the object is to exclude from election a man who is opposed not to the interests of the country, but to the interests of his own political adversaries. Thus, it is evident that a coalition emanates from a faction, and not from the people generally.

to all ideas of honourable and just representation. It allows a majority to tyrannise over a minority—it places us in danger of having any set of demagogues foisted upon us as our representatives, in the place of men of character, ability, and standing. Consider the late election. Notwithstanding all the power of a quadruple coalition—notwithstanding all the influence, all the electioneering skill and experience of their combined committees—one man was, so to say, within an ace of a triumphant election. This could only be the case when that man is supported by an immense amount of popular opinion in his favour.

circumstances of the case, appears to be an important one, when taken in connexion with the appointment of a Ministry, whose predecessors will not have been released by the usual form of Parliamentary dismissal; and as your correspondent deals rather briefly with the subject, I beg leave to submit such further considerations as I conceive may naturally arise therefrom.

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There can, think, be no doubt that the power of release rests with His Excellency the Governor, just as the power of arrest necessarily depends upon the decision of the Executive Council. Under the Crown, through its local representative, has the matter, its special function, no less than the Legal Council, an immediate part; if the question is to determine, from what source the release shall be, whether it is to be a release from the Crown, how far either function is being constitutionally exercised.

The chief fact, patent to the public, are these, that, of the five officers liable to retire, or be re-elected, the Governor, the Attorney-General, the two who have stood the test of popular election, and the one returned as members of the Legislative Assembly. Next, that a *quasi*-Ministry, at present in the hands of the Governor, is formed, which includes but one out of the two *de facto* office-holders, and excludes all the remaining members (being still officeholders) of the *quasi* defunct administration.

It is, therefore, a question, the arguments will have to be reconciled, upon the opening of the new year, as to release from office of four of the present office-holders, once more upon the installation of their successors.

It is, therefore, a question, whether such release from office, by the operation of the *quasi*-Ministry of the Crown, sufficiently complies with the imperative condition that it be upon "political grounds." Certainly, the mere fact of the pre-announced of the new year, is not sufficient.

of the Parliamentary session, cannot justly be pleaded as forming such sufficient "political grounds," for it is quite possible, for anything that can be shown to the contrary, that the five floor holders, if elected wholly or in part to the one House, or a minority wholly or in part to the other House—might have successfully initiated the new machine of State. We are led, consequently, to other, and in fact to merely personal grounds, as the basis of present arrangements, and public report supplies what is probably the true ground, in the alleged incapacity of

Not only, then, is the validity of the pensions (just though they be in principle) open to impeachment, in consequence of present arrangements,—but these arrangements themselves are manifestly liable to still further confusion. Suppose the House met, and the *quasi* ministry to have assumed office. Back they must go to their constituents for the purpose of reelection,—seeing that they have perpetrated the disqualifying act of accepting an “office of profit” under the Crown. Stretch the imagination a little farther, and suppose these ministers’ expectation not to be realised,

Mr. G. Giles: Strawberry poisey steer, TM off rump, off ear marked. To be claimed before May 11.

TOMMINS SWAMP, RYERSON.—April 23. From the run and hind legs, like **Mr. G. Giles**, switch tail, saddle marked, JH conjoined near and off shoulder, 5 years old, 14 hands high. Bay horse, long tail, like **M. M. Van** over JH near shoulder, 1M off shoulder, 4 years old, 14 hands high. To be claimed before May 17th.

RYERSON.—April 23. From **Mr. Yanton's** Padlock, Giebs: Black, 18 in. off shoulder, like **Mr. G. Giles**, on the near shoulder, both hind fetlocks white; 7 years old, 14 hands high. To be claimed before May 22.

KEELS.—April 24th. Black and white steer, off ribs TH. Black and white steer, off ribs like **M. M. damages** 28, sd. ears. Strawberry poisey steer, off ribs like **M. M. damages** 28, sd. ears. To be claimed before May 22.

OW and call, R near side rump, slit in off ear. White heater,
 JD off rump, piece off ear. Red bullock, JSL
 near side, slit off ear, off near ear
 Muck and JSL white horn, bullock like JD with a
 near side, P off side hip. White bullock, M-M near side ribs.
 White bullock, RM off side ribs. Red bullock, J or MT with S
 underneath near side ribs, X near side rump, piece off ear. Red
 bullock, A off side rump, 66 near side ribs. Strawberry bullock,
 Muck and JSL white horn, bullock like JD with a
 Brindle bullock, M-M near side. Also on April 8, from Bolivia:
 Black mare, branded OC with I underneath on near side under
 saddle, 30 off side under saddle. Black filly, unbranded, 1948
 two years old. Chestnut entire colt, X or O on side of circle
 shoulder, hindquarters grey, no brand. On grey mare, no
 shoulder, from grey filly, no brand. On grey filly, no brand.

May 19th. —April 12. From Bundarbo: Strawberry steer, ear marked, 18 off rump, 5 off ribs, 2 years old. Notice has been sent to supposed owner. Black heifer, like TM on off rump, 1 year old. Brown cow, BB off rump, 5 off shoulder. Brown bull calf, unbranded, white back and belly, 7 months old. Also, sold April 20th, from same place: Bay horse, switch tail, saddle marked, JF off shoulder, near hind fetlock white, a few white hairs on nose, IH off side neck, aged, 16 hands high. To be claimed before May 15th.

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